

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 6-7, 17, 19-20, 22, 24-25, and 28, and have canceled claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 12-16, 18, 21-22, 25, and 28 during prosecution of this patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this patent application that said amended and canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, since the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue said amended and canceled claims, and other claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The Examiner indicated claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowed subject matter.

The Examiner objected to claims 22, 25 and 28 under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as allegedly being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

The Examiner rejected claims 17, 19, 20 and 22-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the claim objections, and the § 112 rejections, with the following arguments.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 22, 25 and 28 under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as allegedly being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Since claims 22, 25 and 28 have been canceled, the aforementioned objection to claims 22, 25 and 28 is moot.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 17, 19, 20 and 22-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Since claims 22, 25 and 28 have been canceled, the aforementioned rejection of claims 22, 25 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is moot.

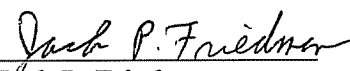
The Examiner states: "Claims 17 and 24 should be amended as follows ...wherein three consecutive rings of the I rings are denoted as rings R_K , R_{K+1} , R_{K+2} and are arranged in an alternating pattern such that either rings R_K and R_{K+2} are rings of the first type and ring $[[R_{K+1}]]$ is a ring of the second type or rings R_K and R_{K+2} are rings of the second type and ring $[[R_{K+1}]]$ is a ring of the first type, subject to K being selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, ..., and 1-2."

In response, Applicants have amended claims 17 and 24 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0456 (IBM).

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